



Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education & Closure or Reduction in Size of a Program Policy

Purpose

In compliance with the ACGME Institutional Requirements, the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) must establish a written policy that addresses a reduction in size or closure of an ACGME accredited program, or closure of the sponsoring institution. This process should be established to minimize the negative impact on trainees and to ensure the communication of these decisions as soon as possible.

The attached policy does not apply to non-ACGME accredited and non-NST programs.

The ACGME Institutional Requirements (2022) state:

- I.B.4.a).(6) GMEC responsibilities must include oversight of all processes related to reductions and closures of individual ACGME-accredited programs, major participating sites, and the Sponsoring Institution; and, (Core)
- IV.N. Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education: The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a policy consistent with ACGME Policies and Procedures that addresses support for each of its ACGME-accredited programs and residents/fellows in the event of a disaster or other substantial disruption in patient care or education. (Core)
 - IV.N.1. This policy must include information about assistance for continuation of salary, benefits, professional liability coverage, and resident/fellow assignments. (Core)
- IV.O. Closures and Reductions: The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a policy that addresses GMEC oversight of reductions in size or closure of each of its ACGME-accredited programs, or closure of the Sponsoring Institution that includes the following: (Core)
 - IV.O.1. the Sponsoring Institution must inform the GMEC, DIO, and affected residents/fellows as soon as possible when it intends to reduce the size of or close one or more ACGME-accredited programs, or when the Sponsoring Institution intends to close; and, (Core)
 - IV.O.2. the Sponsoring Institution must allow residents/fellows already in an affected ACGME accredited program(s) to complete their education at the Sponsoring Institution, or assist them in enrolling in (an)other ACGME-accredited program(s) in which they can continue their education. (Core)

Procedure

1. In the event of a disaster or other substantial disruption in patient care or education. The University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix (UACOM-P) and Banner



Health will continue to provide salary and benefits, professional liability coverage, and adjusted resident/fellow assignments to minimize the impact on the trainee's education.

2. In the event of a decision to close the Sponsoring Institution or any of its ACGME-accredited programs, the UACOM-P will inform the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) as soon as possible.
 - a. The DIO will be responsible for informing the GMEC, Program Directors, GME staff, and the affected residents/fellows as soon as possible.
 - b. The DIO and GMEC will have oversight of the process(es) for reduction or closure of the institution, an ACGME-accredited/NST program, or a major participating site.
 - c. The DIO will notify the ACGME of any decision by the Sponsoring Institution to close or reduce the size of a program as soon as possible.
 - d. If the ACGME invokes the Extraordinary Circumstances policy, the DIO will respond to and follow all of the components and timelines outlined in the ACGME policy.
 - e. UACOM-P and Banner Health will continue to provide salary and benefits, professional liability coverage, and adjusted resident/fellow assignments to minimize the impact on the trainee's education for at least the remainder of the academic year.

3. In either educational disruption or a decision to close the program,
 - a. Every effort will be made to allow affected residents/fellows to complete their education at the UACOM-P.
 - b. Whenever possible, the preferences of the affected residents/fellows will be considered when arranging temporary or permanent transfers to other ACGME-accredited and ACGME recognized programs.
 - c. There will be no further recruitment into the affected program(s) until the ACGME Review Committee and the GMEC determines them to be back in good standing.